UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 18 September 1990
at 5.20 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. DE MARCO (President of the General Assembly)

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ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/45/SR.1
20 September 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-55957 2580S (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.20 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

1. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) nominated Mr. Adouki (Congo).

2. In the absence of further nominations and in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, the TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN declared Mr. Adouki (Congo) elected by acclamation.

3. Mr. Adouki (Congo) was elected by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

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UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 2 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

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90-56062 2632S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/45/SR.2
9 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the trust they had shown in him by electing him Chairman. In the final analysis, that trust was shown in his country, the Congo, which stood in the forefront of international efforts in the field of decolonization, participating in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, especially its Sub-Committee on Small Territories, and also the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

2. Since 1962, 45 dependent Territories had been able to exercise their right to self-determination. There now remained in all only 19 Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was satisfying to note that in the current year Namibia had attained independence. He welcomed Namibia, and also Liechtenstein, as new Members of the United Nations.

3. He expressed the hope for a satisfactory solution of the problems of decolonization of the remaining dependent Territories in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean. The Committee should direct its efforts towards overcoming the obstacles to the exercise of the right of peoples of those Territories to self-determination. That required the co-operation of the administering Powers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Mr. BRISTOL (Nigeria), supported by Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados), nominated Mr. Al-Kindi (United Arab Emirates) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

5. Mr. Al-Kindi (United Arab Emirates) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

6. Mr. AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates) thanked the members of the Committee for the trust they had shown in him and undertook to do his utmost to contribute to the success of the Committee's work.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the remaining Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur would be elected after the necessary consultations had been held.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/45/1, A/C.4/45/L.1 and A/INF/45/1)

8. The CHAIRMAN informed the members that the items allocated to the Fourth Committee were listed in document A/C.4/45/1, and also drew attention to document A/C.4/45/L.1, concerning the organization of work. Paragraph 3 of the latter document contained a preliminary schedule of the Committee's work. He suggested that it should be adopted, on the understanding that it could be amended where necessary.

9. It was so decided.

10. The CHAIRMAN, referring to paragraph 8 of that document, noted that, at the previous session, through the late starting and early adjournment of meetings, the Committee had lost time equivalent to some five meetings. To avoid that happening in future, he intended to call meetings to order on time, relying in that regard on the full co-operation of all members of the Committee. In addition, he drew attention to the Secretary-General's note on the control and limitation of documentation (A/INF/45/1).

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/45/23 (Part IV))

11. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee, introduced, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/84, paragraph 18, the chapter of the Special Committee's report on item 112 (A/45/23 (Part IV), chap. V). In its resolution, the text of which was set forth in paragraph 10 of that chapter, the Special Committee, inter alia, had again reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of dependent Territories to self-determination and independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of their Territories. It had condemned those activities of foreign interests in the colonial Territories that were impeding the implementation of the Declaration and the efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination, and had also condemned the collaboration of certain countries as well as transnational corporations with the racist régime of South Africa. It had urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of colonial Territories to their natural resources, and had decided to continue to monitor closely the situation in the remaining Territories so as to ensure that the economic activities in those Territories were aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies and at speeding their accession to independence. The draft resolution on that item which the Special Committee recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee was set forth in paragraph 11 of chapter V of the report.

12. In addition, in accordance with the established practice and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/425, paragraph 13, the Rapporteur introduced the chapter of the Special Committee's report entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (A/45/23 (Part IV), chap. VI). In its decision, the text of which was set forth in paragraph 10 of that chapter, the Special Committee, inter alia, had condemned all military activities by colonial Powers that were detrimental to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples, and had called upon those Powers to terminate unconditionally such activities. The Special Committee had also condemned the military, nuclear and intelligence collaboration between South Africa and certain countries. The draft decision on

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

that item which the Special Committee recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee was set forth in paragraph 11 of chapter VI of the report.

13. On behalf of the Special Committee, he requested the Fourth Committee to adopt the draft resolution on the activities of foreign economic and other interests and the draft decision on military activities to which he had just referred.

14. The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers wishing to participate in the debate on item 112 would be closed on Wednesday, 4 October, at 6 p.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

15. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that eight communications containing requests for hearings had been received. Three of them related to New Caledonia (A/C.4/45/2 and Add.1-2), one to Western Sahara (A/C.4/45/3) and two to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/C.4/45/4 and Add.1), all under agenda item 18; one to the activities of foreign economic and other interests (A/C.4/45/5) under agenda item 112; and one to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies (A/C.4/45/6) under agenda item 113. In accordance with established practice, he suggested that they should be distributed as documents of the Committee and considered at a subsequent meeting.

16. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 2 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Corrigendum

Paragraphs 11 and 12 should read

11. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee, introduced, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/84, paragraph 18, the chapter of the Special Committee's report on item 112 (A/45/23 (Part IV), chap. V). In its resolution, the text of which was set forth in paragraph 10 of that chapter, the Special Committee, inter alia, had again reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of dependent Territories to self-determination and independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of their Territories. It had condemned those activities of foreign interests in the colonial Territories that were impeding the implementation of the Declaration and the efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination, and had also condemned the collaboration of certain countries in particular Israel, as well as transnational corporations with the racist régime of South Africa. It had urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of colonial Territories to their natural resources, and had decided to continue to monitor closely the situation in the remaining Territories so as to ensure that the economic activities in those Territories were aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies and at speeding their accession to independence. The draft resolution on that item which the Special Committee recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee was set forth in paragraph 11 of chapter V of the report.

12. In addition, in accordance with the established practice and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/425, paragraph 13, the Rapporteur introduced the chapter of the Special Committee's report entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (A/45/23 (Part IV), chap. VI). In its decision, the text of which was set forth in paragraph 10 of that chapter, the Special Committee, inter alia, had condemned all military activities by colonial Powers that were detrimental to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples, and had called upon those Powers to terminate unconditionally such activities. The Special Committee had also condemned the continuing support to the racist régime of South Africa in the military and nuclear fields and expressed its concern at the

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/45/SR.2/Corr.1
31 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

90-56742 2870S (E)

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grave consequences for international peace and security of the collaboration between the racist régime of South Africa and certain Western Powers, Israel and other countries. The draft decision on that item which the Special Committee recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee was set forth in paragraph 11 of chapter VI of the report.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
3rd meeting
held on
Monday, 8 October 1990
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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REQUESTS FOR HEARING

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Hearing of petitioner

REQUESTS FOR HEARING

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90-56119 2692S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/45/SR.3
22 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING (A/C.4/45/2 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.4/45/3, A/C.4/45/4 and Add.1, A/C.4/45/5 and 6)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that requests for hearing had been received relating to the question of New Caledonia (A/C.4/45/2 and Add.1 and 2), Western Sahara (A/C.4/45/3), the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/C.4/45/4 and Add.1), activities of foreign economic and other interests (A/C.4/45/5) and implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/C.4/45/6).

2. Ms. NIELSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that their agreement to the granting of a request for a hearing on the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (agenda item 18) should not be interpreted as recognition of the competence of the General Assembly to assume any functions relating to that Territory. The position of the Nordic countries was based on Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stated that all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas would be exercised by the Security Council, which could avail itself of the assistance of the Trusteeship Council.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no further comments, he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the requests.

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/45/23 (Part IV); A/AC.109/1018, 1020, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034 and 1035)

Hearing of petitioner

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. González González took a seat at the petitioner's table.

6. Mr. GONZALEZ GONZALEZ expressed satisfaction at the attainment of independence by Namibia and went on to say that the item before the Committee touched upon all types of activity, which irrespective of their importance and character, were impeding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and also the struggle of the black majority of South Africa against racial segregation and racial discrimination in order to ensure equality and dignity for all the inhabitants of that country. It would be a serious mistake to limit consideration of the issue to economic and military aspects alone because that would mean bowing to imperialism and disregarding the moral damage which such activities caused to the people under colonial domination.

(Mr. González González)

7. It was clear that economic and military activities were a major impediment to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. That was clearly borne out by the situation of his country; it had a huge number of military bases located on its territory and its economy was almost entirely controlled by the United States. The activities of transnational corporations in that colonial Territory earned those corporations an annual income of between $US 9 and 10 billion to the detriment of the interests of the workers and inhabitants of that country. It should be added that the United States did not pay the Territory any compensation for the use of all those bases.

8. There was no doubt that propaganda was the greatest impediment to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. By "propaganda" he meant all forms of influence on children, young people and adults which was designed to mould appropriately the mind, spirit, consciousness and outlook of people. Moulding the consciousness of the oppressed was the oppressor's principal task in order to perpetuate his domination over the subject Territories. Both State and private schools were used in order to achieve that goal as well as radio and television, the press and other methods of influencing the minds of the population of colonial Territories. In addition to the various types of propaganda "death squads" were used to scare the freedom fighters.

9. The Fourth Committee should take that aspect into consideration because it was far more significant for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 than the military and economic aspects. In that connection, for the attainment of the goal of the decolonization of the 19 colonial Territories it would be advisable not to restrict the functions assigned to the missions dispatched there only to observing the electoral process but to provide also for them to study the teaching materials used in schools and the content of radio and television programmes.

10. Another aspect of the item under consideration related to the formulation of the concept of self-determination. The response given by the Legal Counsel of the United Nations to the inquiry which he (the petitioner) had made on that subject demonstrated clearly that there was no generally accepted formulation of the concept of self-determination. The Fourth Committee should ask Legal Counsel to evolve an appropriate formulation. Furthermore, it should request the inclusion of a new item on the agenda of the General Assembly concerning the formulation by the Assembly of the concept, which played a key role in the process of the decolonization of the 19 Territories.

11. In the absence of a generally accepted formulation of the concept of self-determination in respect of Territories under colonial domination, it was necessary to use the same standards that were used in respect of free, sovereign and independent States. Any referendum, consultation or election conducted on the instructions of the occupying Power in a colonial Territory should be considered an act of self-determination only if measures were taken to transfer to the people indigenous to the territory "all powers ... in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in

(Mr. González González)

order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom" (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, para. 5). Otherwise such referendums, consultations or elections would turn into the usual kind of farce of the colonial régime, a farce all the more dangerous because it gave colonial people and free States a false sense that self-determination was being secured.

12. Another impediment to the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution was the activities of those organizations or groups of States which did not render assistance to the enslaved countries and peoples, even though they had the ability to do so, or rendered only insignificant assistance. They included the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States. The former had played a key role in the liberation of the enslaved peoples in the 1960s and in the 1970s. The latter had never made any effort to free the people of the Caribbean region, who were all still under colonial oppression. Unfortunately, so far as its activities in the sphere of decolonization were concerned, OAU bore little resemblance to the organization it had been in earlier days. The enslaved countries and peoples needed the assistance, support, knowledge and experience of the Organization of African Unity.

13. In conclusion, he asked whether the United Nations itself did not constitute the major diplomatic obstacle to the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV). Was it not true that certain free, sovereign and independent States Members of the United Nations treated the 19 colonial territories as objects to be bought and sold? It was an accepted practice in the Organization for Member States to hold discussions behind the scenes on pacts and agreements which adversely affected the interests of other countries. How else could one explain the fact that one country which had always supported the rights of another oppressed country and spoken in favour of its independence and self-determination should then vote against or abstain from voting on a draft resolution which in no way differed from the draft resolutions it had previously supported? It was also quite likely that a country facing internal problems would be unable to support the right of oppressed peoples to independence and self-determination because imperialist Powers could threaten to supply arms to its opponents or refuse to provide it with economic assistance. Those who traded with the welfare and lives of free peoples were acting immorally, but the victims did at least have the facility of defending themselves through the mechanisms of the United Nations or other means. However, no such facility was available to colonial countries. He therefore urged a halt to trading in those countries' freedom, which they did not yet enjoy, sovereignty, which was denied to them, independence, which only appeared to be close, and right to self-determination, which was ignored by the oppressors in the hope that their slaves would never be able to exercise it.

14. Mr. González González withdrew.

15. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) recalled that 30 years had passed since the adoption by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960 of its historic resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Declaration was quite justly regarded as a new page in the history of the United Nations, as a result of which it had been possible to help many countries to embark on the road to decolonization.

16. In spite of the successes which had been achieved, some regions were still under colonial domination, and their peoples were unable to exercise the inalienable rights to self-determination and independence enshrined in the aforementioned resolution. Obviously, the activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial countries constituted a major obstacle to the resolution's implementation. Colonialism meant promotion of the military, economic and other interests of the metropolitan State, which could not be compatible with the interests of the colonial territory. Accordingly, economic structures in a colonial country were also primarily oriented towards the predatory exploitation of natural resources for the benefit of the metropolitan centre or its trading partners. That also explained the tendency to reinforce the colonial status of those territories.

17. As was well known, the United Nations had adopted countless resolutions calling for an end to colonialism and the restoration of colonial countries' natural resources. The continuous looting of those regions' natural resources, to be used as a source of raw materials for the metropolitan States, must be stopped.

18. It was unacceptable, in that connection, that colonial territories should be used for military purposes. His delegation fully endorsed the United Nations repeated calls contained in the corresponding resolutions, for the immediate and unconditional cessation of all forms of military activity in colonial territories and the complete elimination of military bases therein. Everyone knew that the metropolitan States used those bases as springboards for acts of aggression against neighbouring States, as well as for the purpose of carrying out nuclear tests and storing nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction.

19. One of the reasons for the ineffectiveness of sanctions against South Africa was the co-operation between the apartheid and Zionist régimes. Their co-operation, which occurred in various spheres, was based on the fact that the two régimes pursued a similar policy of racism, that both faced international isolation and that their principal aims consisted of aggression, expansion, the plunder of neighbouring States and the suppression of efforts by the indigenous population to exercise their inalienable rights. The Declaration adopted by the United Nations was also intended to combat such policies.

20. His country had always been ready to provide assistance to the colonial countries and to those struggling for their independence and self-determination and intended to make every effort to facilitate the final eradication of colonialism. All appropriate measures should also be taken by the international community.

21. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) said that the view was being expressed, as the last decade of the twentieth century began, that great progress had been made in the decolonization process and that the United Nations should now shift its attention elsewhere.

22. At one stage of the decolonization process, the activities of foreign economic and other interests impeding implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in the various territories under colonial domination had been relatively open and evident. The relationship between colonialism, apartheid and foreign economic domination had been far more evident than it was now. Over the past 30 years, the world had changed dramatically, but there was no doubt as to the continued existence of foreign economic and other interests which did in fact impede the decolonization process and efforts to eliminate apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination.

23. The economy of the modern world was undoubtedly different from that which had existed 30 years previously. Geopolitical conditions were also completely different. The former colonial countries were now perhaps more open to foreign investment than at any other time in their history. Colonial economies had very often been the products of politically imposed monopolies. In addition, foreign economic interests had, in the pre-colonial era, generally been welcomed in lands that were subsequently colonized. It was only when certain foreign economic interests began to encourage the process of colonial subjugation that a reaction against such interests began to develop.

24. In theory, if not always in practice, the end of colonialism made it possible for new relationships to develop between foreign economic interests and those who had been colonized. The evolution of the world's economy meant that those new relationships were often more beneficial to some foreign economic interests than the old colonial relationships had been.

25. That subject should be examined further. Far too often, sterile repetitiveness had held sway over original thought and analysis. It was hoped that the new thinking that had swept across the globe would also influence the work of the United Nations, particularly in the Fourth Committee. Vanuatu firmly believed that the decolonization process must continue until the people of all Non-Self-Governing Territories were able to decide for themselves who they were and what they wished to be.

26. His delegation did not agree with those who suggested that a lower priority should be assigned to the decolonization process. Vanuatu would always listen to new and constructive ideas addressed to the Committee on that subject. It looked forward to a candid and open exchange of ideas which would bring the Committee closer to the realization of its collective dream - a world totally free of any form of colonialism.

27. Ms. LAOSE (Nigeria) said that her delegation continued to attach a lot of importance to the agenda item currently under consideration. Nigeria condemned without equivocation all activities of foreign economic and other interests which impeded, either directly or indirectly, the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination by colonial and non-self-governing peoples. It particularly condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories where apartheid and racial discrimination existed.

28. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 clearly stipulated that neither the size of a Non-Self-Governing Territory nor its level of socio-economic development should impede the exercise of the right to self-determination. Nigeria, therefore, rejected any attempt to link the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination to social and economic progress in the colonial and dependant Territories.

29. Her delegation also wished to reiterate that the administering Powers had an obligation to protect the land, marine and other natural resources of the Territories under their administration. Most of the economic activities carried out in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were in the sectors of mining, farming and fishing. Those activities had been further encouraged by the existence of cheap, unskilled and semi-skilled labour.

30. The international community should detect and expose any attempt to transform the dependant Territories into dumping sites for toxic and hazardous waste, which endangered the lives of present and future generations.

31. The promotion of economic development in the dependant Territories was clearly a desirable objective. However, in order to be successful, economic development must involve the local population at every stage of project elaboration and execution. Furthermore, the right of colonial and dependant peoples to chart their political destiny should not be sacrificed on the alter of economic development. Her delegation, therefore, urged the administering Powers to give the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories the opportunity to decide their own political future.

32. Her delegation welcomed the recent positive developments in southern Africa and hoped that those changes would continue. Nevertheless, until profound and irreversible changes took place in South Africa itself, it would be necessary to continue to maintain existing sanctions, as had been agreed in the consensus declaration adopted at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly. The international community must not relent in its efforts to eliminate apartheid and racism in southern Africa.

33. The current session of the General Assembly was taking place at a time when significant and momentous developments were occurring in the world. One should not, however, hastily conclude that the colonial era had ended. Any action by individuals, corporate bodies or sovereign States aimed at perpetuating colonialism must be not only condemned, but also firmly resisted.

34. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) said that, although the achieving of independence by Namibia was a decisive step in the struggle against colonialism, there was still much to be done in ensuring all colonial Territories the right to self-determination, regardless of their geographic situation, population size or reserves of natural resources. The Charter of the United Nations and various General Assembly resolutions left no doubt that the administering Powers must take effective measures to ensure the inalienable right of colonial peoples to administer their own natural resources and property. Those Territories must not be used as nuclear-weapon-testing sites or for disposing of nuclear waste or storing arsenals of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction. It should be kept in mind that the peoples and resources of those Territories did not belong to the administering Powers, but had been placed under their trusteeship and that those Powers were obliged to take all measures to preserve the natural wealth of the Territories for future generations. Egypt urged the administering Powers to follow the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in order to help usher in speedily a new era free of all forms of colonialism in which all States and peoples would be able to live in conditions based on justice and co-operation.

35. Apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa had been condemned at the special session of the General Assembly. The Declaration adopted at that session must be the basis for the efforts by the international community to eliminate that inhuman system. Egypt unswervingly condemned all forms of discrimination and ethnic inequality. At the previous session, his country had, in the Fourth Committee, called upon the Government of South Africa to put an end to that system once and for all. The steps taken by the Government of South Africa, which might promote constitutional changes leading to the establishment of a democratic and non-racial society, which would make it possible to ensure development in the region on the basis of justice, equality and peace, had given rise to measured optimism.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING

36. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received three communications containing requests for hearing on the question of New Caledonia under agenda item 18. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

37. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
4th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 9 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH RASHID BIN SAEED AL-MAKTOUM, VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND RULER OF DUBAI

REQUESTS FOR HEARING

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

General debate

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/45/SR.4
17 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-56161 2663S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH RASHID BIN SAEED AL-MAKTOUM, VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND RULER OF DUBAI

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, expressed sympathy in connection with the death of His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed al-Maktoum, Vice-President of the Federation of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

2. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed al-Maktoum.

3. Mr. AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates) thanked the Committee for its expression of sympathy.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING (A/C.4/45/2/Add.3-5)

4. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received requests for hearing relating to New Caledonia (A/C.4/45/2/Add.3-5). If he heard no objection he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the requests.

5. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID, AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/45/23 (Part IV); A/AC.109/1018, 1020, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034 and 1035)

General Debate

6. Mr. ANVIRE (Côte d'Ivoire) said that one of the challenges faced by the United Nations was the liberation of the world from colonialism by the end of the century. It was to be hoped that with the help of the détente between the great powers that challenge would be met as soon as possible. The primary responsibility for meeting it fell on the administering Powers, which must help the populations of the territories not only to take political and economic decisions but to foster human rights and cultural values. Abusive exploitation of the natural resources of the colonial territories was unacceptable. Only the provision of external capital could help the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories overcome their poverty. It was urgent also to make the international community aware of the need to help the people of those Territories in their struggle against natural catastrophes such as hurricanes and the rise in the ocean level caused by the warming of the planet.

7. The end of the cold war also gave grounds for hope that the not-too-distant future would see the dismantling of military bases and the end of nuclear testing in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

8. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) urged the Administering Authorities of the colonized Territories to ensure that economic and other activities in those Territories did not hamper the socio-economic and cultural development of the colonized peoples. He appealed to their colonial masters to free the colonized peoples everywhere in the world immediately or during the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

9. Among the remaining dependent Territories was New Caledonia, which was rich in resources. It was the wish of the indigenous inhabitants to gain access and control over their socio-economic and political life in order to determine their own destiny. He appealed to the Administering Authority to enable the Kanaks and other New Caledonians to freely exercise their right to self-determination. The Matignon and Oudinot Accords had been agreed to, and their provisions had been implemented, but United Nations visiting missions should be allowed to verify them.

10. Colonialism was an experience Papua New Guinea had lived through. Since its accession to independence in 1975, the land and properties exploited by outsiders under the colonial system were being returned to the people by and with the help of the Papua New Guinea Government.

11. The apartheid system in South Africa was an extension and deepening of the colonialist system. The international community must continue to apply the necessary pressure, including economic and other sanctions, until apartheid and colonialism were completely eradicated from South Africa. He appealed to the Government of South Africa to continue its positive efforts to completely dismantle apartheid.

12. The work of the Special Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee was to be commended. Although only a few Non-Self-Governing Territories remained, the uniqueness of each Territory and its people could not be overlooked. Each of the remaining Territories required as much commitment, imagination and perseverence as the international community had demonstrated to date. Moreover, there were still many people and communities who continued to suffer from colonialism, economic exploitation and racism, but were not included in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly had been reminded recently that Tahiti should be included among those Territories. There were many cases of that kind, and a real effort should be made to identify them as soon as possible. In the new era the United Nations had just entered, it was to be hoped that the Administering Authorities would seize the opportunity to forgo their old colonial ways and help build a world completely free of colonialism, racism and apartheid as well as economic, social, political and cultural exploitation.

13. Mrs. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America) said that the Fourth Committee had an important role to play in setting out guidelines for the remaining Territories under its consideration and encouraging their progress to self-determination. Unfortunately, the draft resolutions which had been submitted to it by the Special Committee at its current session were dismaying. At a time when all the other organs of the United Nations had been working effectively to produce resolutions which reflected contemporary reality and were capable of gaining consensus, the Special Committee continued to submit anachronistic resolutions irrelevant to

(Mrs. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

current issues which would have the effect of creating polarization rather than consensus. What was saddest about those resolutions was that they in no way served the interests of territorial peoples. Her delegation was deeply concerned by the Special Committee's inability to bring its work into line with thinking elsewhere in the United Nations and was saddened by the language of the resolutions the Fourth Committee was being asked to consider. In fact, it seriously questioned if there was any utility in continued efforts to work with the Special Committee given the retrogressive nature of the draft resolutions at its August session.

14. The draft resolution on activities of foreign economic and other interests was an embarrassment. It made no attempt to integrate the new thinking and concepts on development approved by the General Assembly in a consensus resolution at its 1990 Special Session, instead devoting a major portion of its text to South Africa and apartheid. But it had nothing to contribute on that subject, as the text was a relic of the past and had been surpassed by far superior consensus language in the General Assembly. Where the resolution did discuss the role of foreign economic interests, it reiterated blanket condemnations of those interests which had never been accurate and were even less appropriate at present, when the developing world was crying out for foreign investment. What was needed in the resolution were creative, forward-looking ideas, pragmatic guidelines and balanced language. While her Government joined in the condemnation of foreign interests that were exploitative in any way, it considered that a distinction must be made between the beneficial and the harmful. Moreover, it was convinced that the people of the territories would object to the blanket condemnations contained in the draft resolution as harmful to their own search for foreign investment leading to growth.

15. The draft decision on military activities lent itself to the same objections. It employed name-calling and outmoded language on apartheid that ran counter to the General Assembly's consensus views and maintained that focus for at least half the text. Where it did discuss military activities, it did so with blanket statements regarding their nature which were simply not supported by the facts. Her Government would vote against the resolution and decision as it had in the past, but would do so with special sorrow at the current session. Those texts in no way reflected the United Nations of the 1990s, did nothing constructive for the peoples of the Territories and revealed an unwillingness to deal with contemporary reality. Her delegation hoped that, together with the other delegations opposing those resolutions, it would be able to convey to the Special Committee that it must move with the times or become totally irrelevant. Most importantly, it hoped to convey the message that the concerns of the Territories deserved more serious treatment than had been offered in those texts.

16. Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Bahrain) said that, as a result of United Nations efforts, many countries had gained independence in the 1950s and 1960s and that the previous year, Namibia had become independent. However, there remained a number of countries colonized against their will, partly as a result of foreign economic interests. The United Nations had repeatedly stressed the illegality of the economic activities of colonial powers, which deprived peoples of their most basic right to conserve and benefit from their natural resources. Article 16 of the

(Mr. Al-Faihani, Bahrain)

Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had stressed the right of peoples to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and all forms of foreign domination and held that the exploitation and depletion of natural resources constituted an obstacle to the liberation of those territories. Such economic activities were a mainstay of the racist minority-rule régime in South Africa. In 1975, his country had imposed on South Africa an economic boycott and trade embargo which also extended to all companies and institutions doing business there.

17. Military activities and arrangements were no less harmful to the rights of colonized peoples, in particular their right to self-determination and independence. It was therefore important to devote attention to such activities and arrangements, in particular in view of the co-operation between the racist régimes of Israel and South Africa, whose possession of weapons of mass destruction threatened international peace and security. The current climate of consensus would favour international co-operation to eliminate the activities of foreign economic and military interests, and especially nuclear military co-operation between racist régimes, which impeded the granting of independence to colonized countries and peoples.

18. Mr. BARAL (Nepal) said that the world appeared to be entering a new phase in its history, where the principles of self-determination and equality were increasingly becoming the essence of human development. The independence of Namibia had brought the colonial era virtually to an end and also served as a model of direct and effective United Nations assistance in the process. However, some vestiges of colonialism remained. Colonial exploitation used political power for the attainment of its primary objective, the exploitation of resources for the economic or strategic interests of the colonizing country.

19. The increasing use of the United Nations as an instrument of change and as a vehicle for international political and economic co-operation was gratifying. As self-determination was the most sacred right of the peoples under colonial domination, each Member of the United Nations should make every effort to dismantle all forms of colonial links. The perpetuation of such exploitation contradicted the spirit of the emerging world order.

20. Regarding the racist régime in South Africa, some positive developments had occurred recently, such as the release of Nelson Mandela and negotiations between the Government and black African leaders. However, the international community should continue to maintain pressure on the apartheid régime until meaningful negotiation for establishment of a democratic and multiracial society became real and irrevocable.

21. His delegation urged intensive negotiations to expedite the decolonization process, in the spirit of respect for human rights. Strategic considerations of some influential Member States should not be linked to the perpetuation of colonial rule. The resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1053 adopted by the Special Committee had emphasized the prevention of depletive exploitation of natural resources, which would create serious environmental problems for colonial

(Mr. Baral, Nepal)

Territories after independence. His delegation also called upon the administering Powers to abolish all discriminatory and unjust wage systems and working conditions in colonial territories.

22. Though his Government could not remain indifferent to the environmental problems facing such Territories, the major objective should be the liberation of the peoples themselves. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee that the Secretary-General should intensify his campaign to mobilize international public opinion against the perpetuation of colonialism in South Africa and elsewhere.

23. Mr. NASIER (Indonesia) said that, in order to insure against policies of depletive exploitation of natural resources and repatriation of profits by foreign interests, the administering Powers must implement comprehensive measures to augment the economic infrastructure of colonial territories by co-operating with the indigenous population to strengthen, diversify and promote their interests towards the realization of the goal of decolonization. The Secretary-General should play a role in the process by disseminating information among members of the international community. His delegation urged the administering Powers to closely monitor and safeguard the economic birthright of indigenous inhabitants in order to strengthen their economic status and facilitate the transition from colonialism to independence.

24. The international community must address urgently the ominous issue of military collaboration between the racist régime in South Africa and the State of Israel to produce nuclear material and equipment. His delegation reiterated its strong condemnation of apartheid and urged that sanctions be maintained in order to compel the Pretoria régime to adopt profound and irreversible changes.

25. With regard to Palestine, efforts must be increased for a just and durable settlement so that the Palestinian people could exercise its legitimate right to self-determination.

26. Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to co-operate fully with the Committee towards the completion of the final chapter in the decolonization process. It was of paramount importance that the United Nations assist colonial territories to strengthen and make viable their economies in order to fully enjoy economic benfits when they achieved freedom and independence.

27. Mr. RAHMAN (Pakistan) said that the declaration by the General Assembly of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism represented a call to the international community to renew its efforts to remove the last vestiges of the colonial era. It should capitalize on the momentum generated by the independence of Namibia.

28. Time and again the United Nations had affirmed that apartheid was incompatible with the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and seriously undermined international peace and security. The adoption by consensus of

(Mr. Rahman, Pakistan)

resolution S-16/1 had been another signal to the international community that relentless pressure on the Government of South Africa must be maintained. A few positive steps had been taken but much remained to be done before relaxation of international pressure would be justified.

29. Mrs. AGUILERA (Mexico) said that her delegation would have welcomed more information on the possible benefits of foreign economic activities to the inhabitants of Trust Territories, such as data on per capita income, the number of jobs generated by foreign companies, median salaries and cost of living. Information regarding the management both by the Government and the administering Powers of the funds obtained through bids from foreign companies would also be useful. From the information presented to the Committee, it could be implied that the conditions which made such Territories attractive to foreign investment would automatically cease if political change occurred. Her delegation believed that change in the political status of Territories under colonial administration should not be interpreted as the inability to sustain conditions favourable to foreign investment. The reasons for considering foreign economic activity an obstacle to the independence of Non-Self-Governing Territories had not been made clear. If policies and regulations remained favourable to investment, there was no valid reason to speak of obstacles to independence.

30. While foreign investment carried out in a spirit of co-operation and social benefit was helpful, however, in most colonial Territories the peoples were gaining no apparent benefit from such involvement. The obligation of the administering Powers to develop infrastructure and promote balanced and co-ordinated economic growth of the peoples under their control had been ignored and even reversed to create socio-economic structures which satisfied only the needs of the colonialists.

31. Her delegation reaffirmed its support of the right of all countries and peoples to self-determination and independence. The growing exploitation of natural and human resources for the exclusive benefit of colonial Powers and transnational corporations and the use of colonial Territories for military purposes not only seriously hindered the decolonization process, but represented a threat to their security. The struggle for independence had meaning only when it was accompanied by a struggle for the economic independence that would lead to true self-determination.

32. The administering Powers had particular responsibility to prevent such Territories from becoming involved in acts of aggression against other States, including any attempt to test or base nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction or to dispose of nuclear waste in colonial Territories.

33. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that Namibia's accession to independence marked the beginning of the final stage of the decolonization process. If the last remnants of colonialism were to be eradicated by the end of the century, it was essential to ensure the full implementation of United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

34. Economic prosperity was of overriding importance for Non-Self-Governing Territories and had a direct impact on their social rights as well. But development, depending on the form that it took, could be either beneficial or harmful for the cultural identity of the populations of those Territories. Czechoslovakia was strongly opposed to any economic activities of foreign interests that were prejudicial to the local populations. Fortunately, such practices had increasingly become a thing of the past. For example, foreign investment helped to foster tourism in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, thereby stimulating the entire services sector and raising the living standard of the population. The same applied to the increased activities of banks and other sectors of the economy. The economic assistance given to the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers had a positive influence too.

35. But increased tourism and a higher standard of living had also given rise to more crime, in the form of smuggling, drug abuse and prostitution. The traditional sources of income of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been dying out, thus jeopardizing cultural identity. Environmental issues had taken on heightened importance, the dumping of toxic waste constituting a serious danger. The administering Powers should strive to offset such negative aspects of foreign economic and other interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The development of the economies in such Territories must not be one-sided, and their natural resources must be utilized in a rational way.

36. Czechoslovakia was opposed to the misuse of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military purposes. The populations in those Territories must have a say regarding the presence of military bases, as the issue involved the right to self-determination.

37. His delegation was dissatisfied with the text of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of document A/45/23 (Part IV). It retained many provisions that had grown obsolete and disregarded the fact that foreign investments might also be an asset for the economic development of the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The wording of the draft resolution included many paragraphs of a purely rhetorical nature that were irrelevant to the situation as it currently existed in the world and failed to reflect the current international climate. His Government was concerned that the Special Committee might well become anachronistic.

38. Mr. ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Namibia's accession to independence was an encouraging sign that colonialism could be eradicated early in the 1990s. His delegation welcomed the delegation of Namibia, whose contribution would undoubtedly help the Fourth Committee in discharging its task.

39. The end of apartheid was in sight, and there was now a growing hope that the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa would create a positive atmosphere for negotiations on the dismantling of apartheid and for the formation of a non-racial Government in South Africa based on the free will of the people.

(Mr. Zeinelddir, Islamic Republic of Iran)

40. His delegation had been pleased to note that progress had been made in the quest for a settlement of the question of Western Sahara, New Caledonia and Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. Such positive developments notwithstanding, the item currently under consideration by the Fourth Committee had not lost its importance. Those who represented the interests of foreign companies and transnational corporations continued to defend economic and military activities in Territories under the colonial yoke, arguing that foreign economic enterprises stimulated the economy and created employment opportunites, whereas in actual fact, such activities violated the rights of the inhabitants of colonial Territories, the United Nations Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

41. The economic activities of the South African régime in Namibia had had an adverse impact on the economy of that country. For example, the current status of Walvis Bay would continue to be an element of uncertainty in the development of the Namibian fishing industry. An alternative harbour could only be built at great expense and would inevitably make Namibia dependent upon foreign assistance.

42. The South African régime's nuclear and military collaboration with certain Western countries and Israel was a threat to world peace, particularly in the Middle East and southern Africa, and impeded efforts to eliminate apartheid.

43. Despite the limited size of the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region, the activities of the United States and the United Kingdom, the administering Powers, must not interfere with the economic growth of the indigenous populations. The establishment of military bases on those Territories was a violation of the original mandate of the administering Powers and threatened regional and international stability.

44. Mr. KOUGBLENOU (Togo) said that Namibia's accession to independence and the liberation of Nelson Mandela served as confirmation of the ideals of the United Nations, in particular with regard to the respect of the right of peoples to self-determination and human dignity, and underscored the importance of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Despite such progress, however, efforts must continue to eradicate colonialism completely. A number of peoples throughout the world continued to be subjected to colonial domination, and the apartheid system persisted, the liberalization measures adopted in South Africa notwithstanding.

45. The intensified activities of foreign economic and other interests was a source of grave concern to his Government, because they denied the peoples of the dependent Territories their independence, their right to self-determination, and the enjoyment of their natural resources.

46. Such activities were based primarily on the logic of profit and the safeguarding of strategic interests. The dependent Territories were being used to reinforce the economic and financial power of the various colonial countries. There was a serious risk that the natural resources of those Territories would be exhausted and their environment destroyed, particularly through the illegal dumping

(Mr. Kougblenou, Togo)

of toxic waste. The military bases there were a threat to world peace and security.

47. The activities of foreign interests were as damaging as colonialism itself, because they aimed to exploit the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories and to repatriate enormous profits to the detriment of the indigenous inhabitants, thereby preventing prosperity and violating the right of those peoples to self-determination. It was therefore essential that urgent measures should be taken to create the conditions needed for granting independence to colonial countries and peoples. The administrating Powers must encourage political, economic, social and educational progress in the Territories they administered and must protect their natural resources from abuse. A broad information campaign must be launched to inform the public about the pillage of natural resources in the colonial Territories and the exploitation of the local populations by economic interests.

48. The administering Powers must meet their obligation to provide regular reports to the United Nations on the manner in which they administered the dependent Territories, indicating in particular the concrete measures adopted and planned to guarantee the inalienable right of the populations of those Territories to dispose of their natural resources in accordance with their best interests.

49. The continued existence of the abhorrent system of apartheid was a challenge to the values of civilization. It was essential to marshall all efforts to eradicate that scourge, whose survival was of enormous benefit to economic, financial and military interests. Those States that co-operated with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear, technological and military sectors must bring their policies into line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in particular those concerning the oil embargo, the embargo on weapons and the implementation of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Pretoria.

50. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that his Government attached considerable importance to the dismantling of apartheid and to the eradication of colonialism, which was both an act of occupation and exploitation. The concept that had crept into the Committee's deliberations that not all colonialist activities were bad represented an attempt to perpetuate exploitation on the archaic pretext of a civilizing mission. The activities of foreign economic and other interests inevitably served the interests of colonialism, so that the real point at issue was to minimize the adverse effect of those activities on the struggle to end colonialism while ensuring, in the interim, that they benefited dependent peoples. The Special Committee on decolonization had heard ample evidence of the continued exploitation by foreign economic interests of dependent Territories. It should be noted that divestment policies in South Africa in the mid-1980s had contributed significantly to the positive political developments which had taken place there.

51. It was imperative for Member States to adhere to all resolutions intended to eradicate apartheid. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the draft decision proposed by the Special Committee in its report (A/45/23 (Part IV)), since

(Mr. Dankwa, Ghana)

foreign economic interests were still impeding the struggle to end apartheid. The draft decision also reflected the importance of the need to mobilize world public opinion against foreign economic interests impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization.

52. His Government welcomed recent improvements in East-West relations and the consequent improvements in the prospects for peace. His delegation hoped that the new world order would maximize opportunities for colonial Territories and peoples to freely determine their futures, since only respect for fundamental human rights, freedom, justice and equality would guarantee peace.

53. Mr. KADRAT (Iraq) said that despite the important role played by the United Nations in decolonization and promoting the right of self-determination there was no doubt that some countries were still being plundered by foreign economic interests. The illegal activities of administering Powers prevented the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories from benefiting from their natural resources.

54. Similar factors characterized the situation in racist South Africa, whose atrocities were similar to those perpetrated by Israel. In fact, there was co-operation in all fields, including the development of chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, between those two countries to the detriment of international peace and security. It was incumbent upon the international community to take a stand against the activities of foreign economic interests, since they harmed the interests of dependent peoples and impeded implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

55. Miss AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said that there was no end to the audacity of Iraq, which condemned foreign interests and occupation while itself occupying Kuwait. Iraq, before expressing its support for the peoples exploited by South Africa and Israel, should put its own house in order, and end its invasion and denial of the self-determination and human rights of the people of Kuwait and the despoiling of their country.

56. Kuwait had always proved its willingness to work with those who sought to achieve the aims expressed in United Nations resolutions through its work in enforcing the embargoes against South Africa and its political and economic support for the people of the occupied Territories, support which it would continue to provide.

57. Mr. KADRAT (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, said that the statement by the so-called representative of Kuwait was out of order: the item before the Committee was the activities of foreign economic interests and not the situation in the Middle East. In that region, the double standard adopted by the United States in the face of Israel's denial of the rights of the Palestinian people lay at the heart of the problem. A consistent approach should be taken to the Middle East and all other issues before the United Nations.

58. Mr. MENAT (France), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had already responded in the General Assembly to the points raised by the representative of Papua New Guinea. The right to self-determination was a fundamental principle of the French Constitution, and the populations of French overseas territories had an opportunity to express their views in free, regular elections.

59. Miss AL-MULLA (Kuwait), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Iraqi criticism on a point of order of her statement and the very presence of the Iraqi representative were themselves out of order.

60. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that his delegation welcomed the willingness of France to contribute to the debate on all issues of decolonization. There were cases of colonial situations other than those of Non-Self-Governing Territories normally considered by the Special Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee, a fact which had been generally recognized. Action should be taken to respect the cultures of the peoples of the Pacific and to ensure their freedom and allow them a genuine opportunity to achieve self-determination. Papua New Guinea looked forward to continued co-operation with the French Government in addressing those concerns.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
5th meeting
held on
Thursday, 11 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates)

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AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued)

General debate

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17 October 1990

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/45/23 (Part IV); A/AC.109/1018, 1020, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034 and 1035)

General debate

1. Mr. MALDIS (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said it was gratifying that the people of Namibia had at last achieved independence during the past year. Clearly, however, the United Nations must not slacken its efforts to achieve the goal of freeing all the dependent Territories.

2. Economic factors played an important part in achieving the full implementation of that goal, and the General Assembly had emphasized in its resolutions on the subject, including resolution 44/84, the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to full control of their own natural resources. It was hard to see, however, from the documents submitted to the Committee, what specific activities had been undertaken by the administering Powers to promote economic development and to avoid the possible negative consequences of the activities of foreign economic interests in the Territories. His delegation supported those resolutions and believed that the administering Powers should act in accordance with them and with the Charter. It also supported the decisions of the United Nations calling for the eliminiation of military bases and the cessation of military activities in colonial Territories, which constituted a basic hindrance to their achievement of independence. It was obvious also that those Territories should not be used for the testing of nuclear weapons or the storage of nuclear wastes.

3. Mrs. DELGADO (Cuba) said that continued application of the basic principles contained in resolution 1514 (XV), the thirtieth anniversary of which was at hand, would mean that the world could be free of the scourge of colonialism by the end of the century. Despite the progress which had been made, some 20 Territories remained under colonial domination, and efforts continued on the part of some to perpetuate that situation.

4. Many obstacles remained to compliance with the Declaration on decolonization. Such economic considerations as unequal trade and external debt undermined economic independence, the basis of political independence. The presence of foreign military installations also promoted dependency on outside Powers. Moreover, at least one such Territory, Puerto Rico, had served as a proving ground for new weapons and tactics later utilized by the United States in its policies of aggression. Independence was also impeded by the imposition of alien cultures, often far removed from indigenous values.

(Mrs. Delgado, Cuba)

5. Frequent reference had been made to change in the international environment and political thinking, and some Powers boasted that colonialism was a thing of the past, rendering continued analysis of the question before the Committee unnecessary. Those same powers declined to participate in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples or to provide current information on the Territories for which they were responsible. Similarly, they sought to tone down the international community's condemnation of apartheid, on the pretext that a more moderate approach would promote democratization in South Africa. Yet it was quite clear that only the full elimination of apartheid could lead to a democratic and united South Africa.

6. There was thus doubt as to whether any real change was actually taking place. There was still a need to apply the principles of the Declaration and the Charter, and to continue the work of the past 30 years. Attainment of freedom by independent peoples would bring greater freedom to all, notwithstanding the siren songs of those who would subvert the world community's responsibilities towards mankind as a whole.

7. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the issues the Committee was now discussing were essential for the establishment of the most favourable conditions for the accession of the dependent Territories to independence. The importance of ensuring the right of peoples freely to manage and exploit their own natural resources was self-evident, and the efforts to promote that right deserved encouragement and support. Unfortunately, however, foreign companies, in their economic activities in the Territories, had made widespread use of practices which were harmful to the Territories and the environment, including the pillaging of those resources, pollution of the environment and violation of the customary working practices of the populations. Those violations made it necessary for the United Nations to take effective measures to establish control and supervision of foreign economic activities in the Territories and to seek means by which the economic activities in those Territories could be integrated into the world economy.

8. Much had been said in the Committee about the negative impact of the military activity of the administering Powers in the Territories. Whatever the validity of the arguments justifying the maintenance of such bases in the past, they had been rendered invalid by the new international situation. In that connection, he recalled the proposal made by his delegation at the third special session devoted to disarmament for the elimination of all military bases on foreign territory by the year 2000. His Government continued to support that proposal and was doing its part to carry it out.

9. Considerable attention was being paid at present to efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations. One of the best ways to achieve that goal, as the recent experience with Namibia had shown, was to work towards the achievement of consensus decisions on the basis of a balance of interests. It was his delegation's view that the extension and deepening of such co-operative endeavours

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

in order to reach consensus resolutions and decisions on all the questions of colonialism to be dealt with at the current session of the General Assembly would constitute a valuable and practical contribution to the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on decolonization.

10. Mr. MOHAMMADI (Afghanistan) said that, despite the significant role played by the United Nations, vestiges of colonialism persisted and the Organization's task remained unfinished. Colonial Powers still sought to preserve their domination, through both economic and military activities. Recent improvements in the global situation should encourage Administering Authorities to remove military installations in dependent Territories, thus improving the prospects for peace and independence.

11. His Government was heartened by the recent developments in South Africa, where dialogue between the Government and the African National Congress held out the prospect of a free and democratic country. Nevertheless the continued violence in the townships was a matter of concern.

12. His Government was optimistic concerning the prospects for peace, freedom, equality and prosperity for all, a process in which the United Nations would continue to play a crucial role.

13. Mr. MIMOUNI (Algeria) said that the United Nations had always stood alongside dependent peoples in their struggle to achieve freedom, as evidenced by its role in Namibia's liberation.

14. Nevertheless, many peoples remained under colonial domination because of the policies pursued by colonial Powers. Specifically, the activities of foreign economic interests, concerned only to maximize their profits and scornful of the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of colonial territories, hindered the process of emancipation, rather than promoting balanced economic development. Such interests flagrantly violated the sovereignty of peoples over their natural resources and, for the most part, served to perpetuate dependency. The use of dependent Territories for military purposes, against the wishes of the indigenous populations and in contravention of United Nations decisions, also gave cause for concern.

15. Foreign economic interests had long served to maintain the South African régime, thus contributing to the marginalized status of the majority of the South African people, who were reduced to little more than forced labour. While some improvement had taken place, the international community must maintain its pressure until apartheid was eliminated and the legitimate rights of the South African people restored.

16. His Government firmly hoped that, at a time of increasing freedom throughout the world, the United Nations would live up to the ideals which had attended its establishment and take the necessary action to restore freedom to all dependent peoples.

17. Mrs. SAMATE (Burkina Faso) said that her Government had always affirmed the right of peoples to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources. Regrettably, administering Powers of dependent Territories permitted the exploitation of those resources in pursuit of profits which were then repatriated rather than used to benefit the peoples of the Territories. Moreover administering Powers had even conducted nuclear tests in dependent Territories. Such policies were at variance with the positive developments on the international scene.

18. With regard to South Africa, certain Powers continued to conduct economic activities which had the effect of consolidating racial discrimination. Military and nuclear collaboration between the racist régime and certain States also continued, in flagrant violation of United Nations embargoes. The apartheid economy offered an extreme illustration of an economy based on colonization and exploitation, and while some change had taken place it was insufficient to lead to the dismantling of apartheid.

19. Administering Powers of colonial Territories must adopt measures to promote free political activities and rectify the serious economic and social problems faced by colonial peoples. The natural resources of colonial Territories must be protected. Foreign economic activities distorted the economies of colonial Territories and did not ensure appropriate economic development. While third world countries sought investment, it must reflect their development priorities and not be concerned solely with profits.

20. The international community must support colonial peoples and take concerted and effective action, particularly in the form of sanctions, to bring about the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. Failing such action, neither peace nor justice could obtain.

21. Mr. EMORID (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the unprecedented détente between the two super-Powers, the reduction of the arsenals of weapons of mass destruction and the strengthening of human rights inspired optimism over the prospects for complete decolonization by the end of the century. He hoped that those developments had not been a result of selfish ambitions disregarding the rights of the peoples of the third world, including those who had not yet achieved self-determination. It was unacceptable for some to live in luxury while others plundered and depleted their resources. The international community was urged to eliminate all vestiges of colonialism. Thus, the Ninth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries had raised the question of economic, social and cultural compensation for the colonial period. The plundering by foreign interests of natural resources and their exploitation of indigenous populations were aimed at making quick profits and tying the economies of those countries to those of the colonialist countries in order better to control the newly independent peoples.

22. Military objectives were often the main reason for occupying those Territories and obstructing their independence. The establishment of military bases there impeded development and constituted a danger even greater than that of nuclear testing or the deployment of weapons of mass destruction. Military benefits reaped by the colonialist countries often exceeded their economic gains in those regions

(Mr. Emorid, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

and should be condemned, and steps should be taken to prevent those Territories from being used to bury toxic wastes.

23. It was vital to comply with the General Assembly's economic sanctions, which were not applied against the South African régime by some colonialist countries, and in particular the Zionist entity. The arrogant régimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa defied repeated international resolutions against racial discrimination and apartheid, and co-operated closely in arms production and the plundering of the wealth of the Palestinian and South African people, encouraged by the indifference of the colonialist countries. The struggle to eliminate the shame of racial discrimination was not yet at an end, although some progress had been made.

24. During the colonialist occupation of Libya, air power and chemical weapons had been used in the Second World War against Libyan freedom fighters, as had detention, mass deportations and other forms of punishment. Libya had been the scene of the great North African campaigns, for which large tracts of land had been mined. The mines still impeded development, and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would continue to request assistance in their removal from the countries responsible for them and seek compensation for loss of life and other damage.

25. He reiterated the firm support of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for liberation movements around the world. Its freedom would remain incomplete as long as there were peoples who had not obtained their freedom, independence and sovereignty.

26. Mr. MDEE (United Republic of Tanzania) noted that, 30 years after the adoption of the Declaration on decolonization, only 18 countries remained under the yoke of colonialism. That should be a source of gratification to the international community, and to the Fourth Committee and the Committee on decolonization in particular, for a job well done.

27. As part of the Committee on decolonization's success, Namibia had in March 1990 become the last colony in sub-Saharan Africa to regain its independence. Yet colonialism was only one of the twin evils bedevilling the African continent. The other was apartheid. Although steps in the right direction had been taken in South Africa over the past nine months, the conscience of the international community could not be at peace until apartheid had been totally eradicated. For that reason, there was every justification in maintaining pressure on the South African régime. His Government rejected the argument that the relaxing of pressure would encourage the régime to eradicate apartheid; there was a strong body of evidence showing that that course of action would in fact produce the opposite results.

28. By some historical coincidence, the majority of the remaining colonies consisted of small Territories. His delegation shared the view that the size of a Territory should never be used as an excuse to deny a people their right to self-determination.

(Mr. Mdee, United Republic of Tanzania)

29. The past year had seen the end of the cold war and that had led some to conclude that there would be less support for the anti-colonial struggle. But neither the anti-colonial nor the anti-apartheid struggle had been a product of the cold war, and the relaxation of East/West tensions would not change the depth of anti-colonial sentiment.

30. While it was true that not all the activities of foreign economic and other interests impeded progress towards self-determination, there could be no denying that some activities had a direct negative impact on the process. It was those activities that must continue to be opposed by the international community. The countries that had chosen to co-operate in military and nuclear fields with the South African régime must be told that their action was reprehensible. Any attempt by them to hide under the umbrella of East-West rapprochement must be categorically rejected. His country remained unwaveringly committed to the struggle for the eradication of colonialism.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
6th meeting
held on
Friday, 12 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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A/C.4/45/SR.6
26 October 1990
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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/45/23 (Part IV); A/AC.109/1018, 1020, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034 and 1035)

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates) said that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was one of the most effective documents of the United Nations and that his country supported all steps designed to ensure the exercise by all peoples and Non-Self-Governing Territories of the right to self-determination and independence. The world was watching with optimism the developments in the international arena which were facilitating the establishment of peace and stability everywhere.

2. However, that process had been brought to a halt by Iraq's aggression against and occupation and annexation of Kuwait. That action had been condemned by the international community, which had also demanded an end to the aggression and the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty. The United Arab Emirates affirmed their support for all the resolutions adopted by the Arab countries and the international community condemning the aggressor and calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the return of the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

3. His country had itself been a victim of colonialism in the past and it condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the attainment of freedom and independence by oppressed peoples. It also condemned the racism and discrimination in the activities of the administrations of Non-Self-Governing Territories encouraged by the administering Powers for the purpose of exploiting the natural wealth and undermining the economies of the Territories. The unbridled exploitation and plunder of natural resources and the degradation of the environment were causes for concern, for they violated the principle that the natural resources of Non-Self-Governing Territories were the property of the peoples living there. It was essential to take all possible steps to protect the natural wealth of the Territories under colonial rule and to prevent foreign hegemony.

4. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 35/118, annex), it was essential to take all possible steps to curtail military activities, nuclear weapons testing, the burying of nuclear wastes, the establishment of military bases, and the development of weapons of mass destruction. The basis of economic co-operation must be the right of peoples to self-determination, control of their own resources, freedom and independence. Only co-operation on that basis would bring benefits for

(Mr. Al-Kindi, United Arab Emirates)

all and ensure security. In view of the current situation, efforts must be redoubled within the United Nations to provide colonial countries and peoples with an opportunity to achieve independence, so that they could exercise their political, economic and social rights.

5. The United Nations had played a noteworthy role in ensuring Namibia's transition to independence. That was a positive step, but much remained to be done in order to put an end to apartheid and revoke the repressive and racist laws which were impeding the exercise of the economic, political and social rights of the whole population of South Africa. It was therefore necessary to take measures to ensure that the pressure on the racist régime was not relaxed and to put an end to apartheid once and for all.

6. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) expressed his thanks for the kind words addressed to him in connection with his occupation of the Chair of the Committee at the last session of the General Assembly and he said that the success of the Committee's work at that session had been due to the efforts of delegations and of the Secretariat.

Consideration of draft recommendations (A/45/23 (Part IV, chap. V, para. 11 and chap. VI, para. 11)

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would now take up the two draft texts contained in document A/45/23 (Part IV) and invited delegations to speak in explanation of their vote before the vote.

8. Mr. TENNE (Israel) said that the draft resolution and the draft decision recommended by the Special Committee on decolonization contained in document A/45/23 (Part IV) condemned only Israel and no one else for co-operation with South Africa. That was a shameful and discriminatory practice. Such resolutions were usually adopted by an automatic majority but it was still required to support its accusations with evidence. In that connection it was necessary once again to dispel the myth of nuclear co-operation between Israel and South Africa. Anyone who was genuinely interested in the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples must recognize that unjust and discriminatory resolutions based on fabrications did nothing to secure success in the just struggle against racism and apartheid. Such resolutions were in nobody's interest. Israel, which had always stated its readiness to support the developing countries and co-operate with them, was regrettably compelled to vote against the proposed draft resolution. However, it would never allow such resolutions to prompt it to renounce its policy of co-operation, not in the military or nuclear spheres, but in areas such as science and technology, agriculture and medicine, social security and the environment. Israel would continue to make its contribution to the attainment of the Committee's real goals.

9. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that the draft resolution proposed under agenda item 112 gave rise to serious objections on the part of his delegation, for the text was full of rhetoric, anachronisms and repetitions. Not only did the draft resolution not help the implementation of the Declaration, it might even have a negative impact on that process. His country regretted that the draft resolution did not duly reflect the activities of foreign economic and other interest which actually worked to the benefit of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the same time, Czechoslovakia reaffirmed its adherence to the principles set out in the Declaration; for that reason alone his delegation would not vote against the draft resolution and decision proposed by the Special Committee. However, it should be borne in mind in future that its decision to abstain was of a preliminary nature and taken with reservations.

10. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, reaffirmed their strong support for all efforts made in accordance with the Charter to eliminate colonialism and their commitment to the right of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination. The Twelve opposed any activities of foreign economic and other interests which might impede the process of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, the draft resolution did not take into account the fact that foreign investments often contributed greatly to the economic and social development of those Territories and it drew no distinction between their beneficial and their harmful activities. The Twelve had reservations of principle with regard to the paragraphs of the draft resolution which did not conform with the provisions of the Charter concerning the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council. They also deplored the singling out of individual countries.

11. The Twelve expressed their concern that the Fourth Committee once again had to deal with a draft decision relating to military activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories, since that subject was not among the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly.

12. With regard to southern Africa, the Twelve recalled that the situation in Namibia had been the basis for the reference to apartheid under the item. In view of Namibia's accession to independence, they felt that matters relating to apartheid were no longer part of the terms of reference of the Fourth Committee, which dealt with decolonization. For those reasons they would not be able to vote in favour of the proposed draft texts.

13. Mr. KEMBER (New Zealand) said that his delegation had followed with considerable interest the debate on the question of the activities of foreign economic and other interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories. In New Zealand's view, investments in the Territories which did not bring a return to their peoples were unacceptable. Investments could and should be beneficial. His delegation welcomed the inclusion in the draft resolution of a paragraph on the protection of the natural resources of Non-Self-Governing Territories and of proper control over their development. One of the greatest threats to natural resources came from the impact of global warming. Unless the trend towards global warming was arrested it would lead to the physical disappearance of low-lying territories, including

(Mr. Kember, New Zealand)

non-self-governing ones. It was regrettable that the proposed draft texts contained language which once again prevented New Zealand from voting in favour of them.

14. It was also regrettable that the draft texts did not reflect the many changes taking place in the world and used inappropriate language. New Zealand was particularly pleased that one of the seminars organized by the United Nations had been on decolonization in the Pacific region. It was disappointing that the forward-looking thinking which had guided the final stages of the decolonization of Namibia and the conduct of the seminars had not been carried through into the draft texts. New Zealand would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution and the draft decision.

15. Miss BIRD (Australia) said that her delegation supported the reservations expressed by other delegations with respect to some outdated language used in the drafts under consideration. Her delegation also was against the practice of singling out individual countries. In the 30 years since the adoption of the Declaration on decolonization the Committee's agenda had changed considerably. Namibia's achievement of independence was the most recent example of the successful implementation of the right to self-determination by Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, that did not mean that the Committee's work had diminished in importance. Close attention was required in the case of each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Her delegation firmly supported the role of the United Nations and the Committee in promoting decolonization. All the provisions of the draft resolution and the draft decision had been correct at the time they had been drawn up. Until the previous year Australia had supported them. However, ignoring the changes which had taken place would not be of any benefit to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Accordingly, Australia would abstain in the voting on the draft r solution and the draft decision.

16. Mr. HAJNOCZI (Austria) said that the texts of the draft resolution and draft decision did not reflect the important developments that had occurred over the past year. Those texts seemed all the more untimely in that the General Assembly had adopted by consensus new formulations at the special session on apartheid and at the resumed forty-fourth session. Certain activities of foreign economic and other interests indeed impeded the process of decolonization. At the same time other activities undoubtedly promoted the economic and social development of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Therefore, a major shortcoming was that the draft resolution did not reflect sufficiently that basic reality. As far as specific paragraphs of the draft resolution were concerned, his delegation reiterated that the General Assembly should respect the prerogatives of the Security Council, and it deplored the continued practice in the texts of singling out individual countries. For those reasons, it would abstain in the voting.

17. Mr. TROLLE (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, reaffirmed their longstanding support for any realistic measures that were taken in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in order to implement the Declaration on decolonization. The Nordic countries firmly condemned

(Mr. Trolle, Sweden)

the activities of foreign economic and other interests which impeded the process of decolonization in Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, the draft resolution under consideration failed to recognize that foreign economic and other activities could be beneficial to the economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Nordic countries also had reservations of principle with regard to a number of specific paragraphs in the draft resolution which failed to take into account the Charter provisions concerning the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council and deplored the continued practice of selectively singling out individual countries as supporters of the policies of the Government of South Africa.

18. Recently there had been important improvements in the international political climate, especially in southern Africa, as exemplified by Namibia's accession to independence. Yet the proposed texts did not reflect those significant developments, being virtually unchanged from those submitted in 1989. That deficiency was regrettable and, in the opinion of the Nordic countries, it was important for the international community to act with great care regarding the question of apartheid at the current critical juncture. It was especially important that the resolutions adopted should reflect adequately the existing situation in South Africa. The Nordic countries considered that the drafts failed in that respect. For those reasons, they would abstain in the voting on the draft resolution and the draft decision.

19. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution and draft decision in document A/45/23 (Part IV) because the condemnation of the activities of foreign economic interests contained therein was directed solely at the interests which impeded the implementation of the Declaration. The second case involved not all military activities but only those which prejudiced the rights and interests of colonial peoples, especially the right to self-determination and independence. He expressed the hope that, in the future, draft resolutions would reflect more adequately and accurately the unique circumstances of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the evolving character of the economic and social conditions in those Territories. A more careful consideration of those factors would help to achieve the elimination of colonialism and would accelerate that process. His delegation was prepared, together with other delegations, to participate in drawing up such documents, which would as far as possible reflect reality and in the future would receive much broader support and might be adopted by consensus.

20. A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution contained in chapter V, paragraph 11, of document A/45/23 (Part IV).

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho,

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Romania, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden.

21. The draft resolution was adopted by 79 votes to 10, with 21 abstentions.

22. A recorded vote was taken on the draft decision contained in chapter VI, paragraph 11, of document A/45/23 (Part IV).

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey.

23. The draft decision was adopted by 77 votes to 12, with 22 abstentions.

24. Mr. SAVOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation had abstained in the voting on both the drafts, which failed to reflect adequately the new spirit emerging in the Organization and the changing realities in southern Africa. They also contained inappropriate language and references to States and groups of States which his delegation was not able to accept. As far as the draft decision on military activities was concerned, his country's position was in conformity with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 4 of that draft. His delegation favoured the gradual elimination of all military bases outside the national territory of any State and was committed to the important task of ridding Non-Self-Governing Territories of such bases and installations.

25. Mr. EHLERS (Uruguay) said that his delegation had again expressed its agreement with the draft resolution and the draft decision just adopted by the Committee. That position reflected his delegation's full support for the principles and ideals underlying the drafts and the goals they served. Nevertheless, his delegation would have preferred the drafts to omit any reference to specific countries. It reiterated its view that it was necessary to avoid provisions of a discriminatory or selective character which might impede the adoption of a resolution and the attainment of its goals.

26. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) expressed his disappointment with the results of the voting on the drafts, which had not been supported by a number of delegations. He hoped that the Committee would find a way of achieving consensus and reflecting that consensus in its resolutions. His delegation endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Vanuatu. On the basis of its commitment to decolonization, it traditionally supported the resolution and decision on the item under consideration.

27. The CHAIRMAN invited Committee members to explain their votes if they wished to do so.

28. Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, had she been present during the voting, she would have voted in favour of the draft resolution and draft decision contained in document A/45/23 (Part IV).

29. Mr. SHEIKH ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed gratitude to the representatives of Vanuatu and Trinidad and Tobago for their explanations.

30. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 112 and suggested that, in accordance with past practice, the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly on the item.

31. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
7th meeting
held on
Monday, 15 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Hearing of petitioners

REQUEST FOR HEARING

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/45/23 (Parts V and VI), A/AC.109/1015 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1016 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1017-1021, 1023 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/AC.109/1024-1036, 1041 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1044 and 1048 and Corr.1/Rev.1)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/45/3 (Chaps. I and VI, sect. D))

AGENDA ITEM 114: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/45/553)

AGENDA ITEM 115: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/45/560)

1. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, introduced the chapters of the Special Committee's report on agenda items 18, 111 and 113 in document A/45/23 (Parts V and VI).

2. The Special Committee, pursuant to the requests in paragraph 11 (a) and (d) of General Assembly resolution 44/101 of 11 December 1989, had once again carefully reviewed the situation in the Territories concerned, as well as other related questions, and had adopted a number of recommendations and proposals.

3. The Special Committee reaffirmed its position that it was the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in those Territories as would enable their peoples to exercise, freely and without external interference, their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and that the population itself must in the last analysis determine its future political status.

4. The Special Committee urged the administering Powers to take measures to strengthen and diversify the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and once again stressed the importance of sending visiting missions to facilitate the speedy implementation of the Declaration with respect to those Territories.

5. The Special Committee expressed the hope that France and the United Kingdom, as administering Powers which had not participated in its consolidation of the

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problems of the Territories under their administration during the current year, would rethink their position.

6. The Special Committee requested the organizations of the United Nations system to render, or continue to render, all possible moral and material assistance to the colonial peoples, bearing in mind that such assistance should not only meet their immediate needs but also create conditions for development after they had exercised their right to self-determination and independence.

7. The Special Committee felt that the organizations concerned should initiate or broaden contacts and co-operation with the colonial peoples and the administering Powers in order to intensify programmes of assistance and urged the executive heads of those organizations to submit to their governing and legislative organs concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions. The Special Committee noted with grave concern the extensive links and collaboration between the apartheid régime of South Africa and certain countries in the political, diplomatic, economic, nuclear, military and other fields, and the growing military and nuclear co-operation between racist Pretoria and Israel, and it condemned those links and collaboration.

8. In respect of information transmitted by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, the Special Committee requested the administering Powers concerned to transmit or to continue to transmit such information to the Secretary-General.

9. Those and other specific recommendations were included in the draft resolutions and decisions set out in the chapters of the Special Committee's report.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/C.4/45/2 and Add.1-5, A/C.4/45/4 and A/C.4/45/6)

Question of New Caledonia

Hearing of petitioners

10. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had granted requests for hearing concerning New Caledonia and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in documents A/C.4/45/2 and Add.1-5 and A/C.4/45/4.

11. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Temaru (Front de libération de Polynésie) took a place at the petitioners' table.

12. Mr. TEMARU (Front de libération de Polynésie) said that, thanks to the efforts of the United Nations, the Kanak people had succeeded in getting the question of their rights and freedoms included in the agenda of the international community through the work of the Special Committee on decolonization. As a result of the Matignon Agreement, the Kanak people would very soon be able to administer their own country in freedom and full independence.

(Mr. Temaru)

13. Speaking of the exploitation of Caledonian natural resources by France, he noted that the strengthening of French domination of the economy of the Kanak people was being furthered by the determination to maintain a system of colonial domination based on financial constraints and supported by various forms of blackmail, including public menaces.

14. With regard to the various decisions adopted by the United Nations on the question of the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and in particular General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Kanak people were fully entitled to preserve their natural resources for their own direct benefit. As one example of French interference in the Caledonian economy he cited the exploitation of the 200-mile economic zone for fishing. France had expropriated that vast zone, owned by Polynesia, to the detriment of the development of one of the most basic sectors of New Caledonia's economy.

15. Referring to the catastrophic balance-of-payments situation in New Caledonia, he said that France had deprived the Kanak people of the opportunity to control all the factors of their economic development. In accordance with existing legislation, all foreign affairs, communications, currency, credit, and other sectors, were under the control of the French State, and in such circumstances no country could pursue any kind of serious economic policy.

16. Yet another important problem was the continuation of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. When Algeria had become independent, France had transferred its nuclear tests from the Sahara to the South Pacific without any consultation with the French people. It had carried out more than 40 tests in the atmosphere and more than 100 underground explosions, which had caused ecological damage to New Caledonia and a good part of the planet. Recent analyses of the chemical composition of groundwater near the test site refuted the argument that those tests were not dangerous.

17. In conclusion, he said that the Kanak people would be grateful to the Chairman and the members of the Fourth Committee if they would once again include Polynesia in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, a list from which it had been arbitrarily excluded by the French Government on the grounds that New Caledonia had been given political autonomy.

18. On behalf of the Polynesian and Kanak people, he welcomed the decision of the United Nations to proclaim the 1990s the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and renewed its request that Polynesia should be reinserted in the list of Territories to be decolonized, a list which already included New Caledonia.

19. Mr. Temaru withdrew.

20. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Winslow (Montreal University) took a place at the petitioners' table.

21. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) raised the issue of sustainable development in New Caledonia and the consequences thereof for the future self-determination of the Territory. Kanak demands for independence presupposed cultural recognition as

much as political and economic autonomy. For socio-economic change in the Territory to be achieved, a native wisdom and knowledge must be drawn upon not only at the grass-roots level, but at the national-policy level as well.

22. The dispossession of the Kanaks of their right to land in New Caledonia had followed a classic pattern of colonial expansion and the development of unequal socio-economic relations that permitted the exploitation of labour, land and natural resources. The Matignon Agreement imposed Western management models and measures of success upon the Kanaks. The indigenous population was regarded in the Agreement as a "special" social category with "special" problems deserving "special" treatment and guidance in the pursuit of development. The objective situation of the Kanaks was ignored, and the structure of inequality was validated by attributing its causes to deficiencies which were assumed to be inherent in Kanak society. If the fundamental rules of economic development were to be set by France and based on Western models, there was a risk of dislocating not only the structure of production, trade and consumption but also the patterns of traditional authority, custom and culture.

23. The proposed development of mining and forestry under the Matignon Agreement would only lead to increased environmental destruction and depletion of the Territory's bio-asset base. It would seem that the southern province, which contained 70 per cent of New Caledonia's European and immigrant population, was benefiting the most from the Matignon Agreement. That province contained two thirds of the labour force, most of the management personnel and almost all of the Territory's private capital.

24. If private capital did not invest in the Kanak provinces, there was little hope for sustained economic development. For example, the average aid per capita for the South Pacific region was $US 244, whereas New Caledonia received $US 1,592 in aid per capita, in other words six times the regional average. That meant that the Territory was more heavily dependent on outside aid than other Territories. The situation was compounded by the fact that virtually the sole source of aid to New Caledonia was France; that posed a serious threat to the future self-determination of the Territory. In order to be sustainable, any form of development must incorporate local experience. Traditional structures existed in the Kanak community that could promote a dialogue to resolve the problems of the Kanak and non-Kanak population.

25. A wide gap existed between the Kanaks and the other ethnic communities in the Territory with regard to education. Statistical data showed that the Kanaks had the lowest level of education and the lowest percentage of high-school graduates.

26. She had had the opportunity to attend two regional seminars held in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Those seminars had shown that the powers and the budget of the Special Committee should be increased so that an extensive study could be made of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and its findings could be distributed world wide. The populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should make their views known to the international community and

(Ms. Winslow)

familiarize the inhabitants of the remaining colonies with the activities of the United Nations.

27. The administering Powers should be encouraged to establish the necessary conditions to enable the peoples under their jurisdiction to gain political and economic independence in accordance with the principles of the United Nations. That included the transmission of information to the Special Committee in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

28. The economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-reliance and reduced economic dependence on external sources would require the creation of specific programmes aimed at guiding them in that direction. The administering Power should be called upon to act in close consultation with the legitimate representatives of the Territory in order to prevent the activities of foreign economic interests that might impede the self-determination process, thus ensuring that New Caledonia was protected from any activities that could jeopardize its economy and compromise its environment.

29. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) asked whether the activities of foreign economic interests had a perceptible impact on the decolonization process in the South Pacific region, particularly in New Caledonia.

30. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) said her reply depended upon how the term "foreign economic interests" was interpreted. If it referred to France's role in shaping a future New Caledonia, the answer was very clear. If, however, it referred to the role of foreign economic interests in the decolonization process, those interests were more concerned with using the resources of the country to reap maximum profits for themselves than with creating the infrastructure necessary to ensure long-term, sustainable and economically sound development.

31. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) said that he was expecting to hear an answer to the question whether the activities of foreign economic interests fostered or impeded the decolonization process.

32. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) said that the type and volume of the aid given to New Caledonia seriously impeded the self-determination process. Such aid came primarily from one source, and made the country heavily dependent upon that source.

33. Furthermore, in the absence of private capital investments in the northern and island provinces, which would promote a diversification of the economy, it was difficult to imagine the Territory achieving any kind of independence by 1998, because all development activity would depend upon the allocation of State resources. That being the case, New Caledonia's future was not particularly bright. Moreover, not every activity of private enterprise should be welcomed. For example, the mining of nickel by transnational corporations was carried out irrationally from the ecological point of view: the profits reaped were taken out of the country and were not used to develop the Territory. The main goal must be to ensure the country's dynamic, sustained growth, while bearing ecological needs

in mind and protecting the cultural traditions of the people of New Caledonia. Broader consultation with the indigenous population and the elaboration of completely new approaches designed to involve the population in the country's development activities must serve as the basis for that process.

34. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea), pointing out that the French authorities had recently assisted the Kanaks in acquiring a mine but had not provided the necessary technical know-how, asked whether the administering Power would use that fact in the future to argue that the Kanaks were incapable of administering their own land.

35. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) said that the acquisition of control of the mines was of great significance since the mining industry was an important source of revenue, but it must not be forgotten that only 10 per cent of the assets had been transferred to the Kanaks, an amount clearly insufficient to ensure their development. Furthermore, it was necessary to seek other more rational development models based on the exploitation of other kinds of resources. It was also necessary to obtain an answer to the question whether the profits from the remaining 90 per cent of the assets of the mining industry would be used in the interests of the local population.

36. Ms. Winslow withdrew.

37. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that he wished to put a question to Mr. Temaru (Front de libération de Polynésie).

38. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Temaru (Front de libération de Polynésie) again took a place at the petitioners' table.

39. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that it was widely argued that French legislation protected the interests of the population of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including New Caledonia, with respect to the attainment of self-determination. He would like to know Mr. Temaru's opinion as to whether the French Constitution worked in the interests of the Kanaks and was applicable to other dependent Territories.

40. Mr. TEMARU (Front de libération de Polynésie) said that the French Constitution provided for the right to self-determination of all the dependent Territories of France. Nevertheless, the petitions concerning the organization of a referendum in New Caledonia addressed to the Government of France in 1986 and 1989 had so far remained unanswered.

41. Mr. LACROIX (France), speaking on a point of order, requested that Mr. Temaru should confine himself to the matters on the agenda.

42. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) asked whether the Committee had any grounds to believe that New Caledonia would be able to secure its independence within the framework of the legislative system and Constitution of France.

43. Mr. TEMARU (Front de libération de Polynésie) said that the French Constitution recognized that right.

44. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that he wanted to understand Mr. Temaru's position correctly, for New Caledonia was included in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and its delegation had come to take part in the work of the Committee on the ground that under French law New Caledonia could not secure self-determination in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

45. Mr. TEMARU (Front de libération de Polynésie) said that the people of New Caledonia could not exercise their right to self-determination because the French Government was doing everything possible to prevent it. He did not see any possibility that by 1999 the Kanak people would achieve control over the economy of their own country.

46. Mr. Temaru withdrew.

47. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Winslow (Montreal University) again took a place at the petitioners' table.

48. Mr. BUGOTU (Solomon Islands) asked Ms. Winslow whether she thought that in eight years' time the people of New Caledonia would be able to take over the administration of their country.

49. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) said that, notwithstanding the forecasts that by 1998 the Kanaks would make up 52 to 53 per cent of the electorate, real assessments put the figure at 43.6 per cent. Furthermore, there were difficulties with regard to the definition of voter qualification and the question of the necessity of holding elections.

50. The Prime Minister of France had expressed the hope that New Caledonia would remain in the French Republic. Accordingly, it was hardly possible to believe that France would deliberately pursue a policy designed to achieve the self-sufficiency which was a necessary condition of independence.

51. Mr. BUGOTU (Solomon Islands) asked Ms. Winslow whether she agreed that the Matignon Agreement was designed to achieve the independence of New Caledonia.

52. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) said that the Matignon Agreement was not designed to achieve the decolonization of New Caledonia but was merely an agreement on a truce between the local population and the French authorities. Moreover, it was no guarantee of the sustained development which was necessary for the attainment of independence.

53. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand) asked Ms. Winslow to comment on the effectiveness of the programme for the training of managerial personnel set up under the Matignon Agreement.

54. Ms. WINSLOW (Montreal University) said that, during the recruitment of persons to receive training under the programme, great difficulties had arisen in connection with their qualifications. A second problem was that trainees in the programme were required to spend a few months in the Territory in order to gain

practical experience of all the events taking place there and to take a direct part in its development.

55. Ms. Winslow withdrew.

56. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Uregei (Front uni de libération Kanak) took a place at the petitioners' table.

57. Mr. UREGEI (Front uni de libération Kanak) said that the Matignon Agreement constituted a threat to the transition of the Kanak people to independence. The Rocard plan did not guarantee Kanak independence, and the French Government was seeking for political reasons to implement the plan at any cost in order to maintain a French presence in New Caledonia and in the South Pacific region. To that end it was seeking to have New Caledonia recognized as a State having associative status with respect to France.

58. The Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) believed that the Rocard plan did not guarantee satisfaction of the basic demand of the Kanak people and FLNKS was opposed to the division of the country, for that would be effected without regard to the cultural characteristics of the regions where the Kanaks lived. Nor did it accept the composition of the proposed electoral body, for it would guarantee supporters of the anti-independence movement a majority of 64 per cent in the voting on the question of self-determination in 1998.

59. Although FLNKS recognized that the Matignon Agreement did not guarantee Kanak independence, it was mobilizing regional and international efforts in support of the 10-year Rocard plan, an action which in the end played into the hands of the colonial Government, the Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR), and certain countries of the region which enjoyed privileged relations with France. At a time when the policy of Mr. Michel Rocard, an advocate of the Matignon Agreement, was being subjected to increasing criticism and when it was quite possible that Prime Minister Rocard would renounce his own plan before 1998, FLNKS should change its attitude to the Agreement. It was illogical and dangerous from the standpoint of the struggle of the Kanak people for FLNKS to petition international bodies, including the relevant bodies of the United Nations itself, in order to secure their support on the issue of Kanak independence and at the same time for it to approve the Rocard plan, which did not guarantee the independence of the Kanak people.

60. The position of FULK remained unchanged. It advocated the independence of the Kanak people, condemned the Matignon Agreement and supported the proposal of FLNKS to review the text of the Agreement in order to ensure guarantees for the independence of the Kanak people, particularly with regard to the electorate and the timetable for implementing the plan.

61. Lastly, he pointed out that the Kanak people had made a choice in favour of the independence of New Caledonia. FULK was prepared to co-operate with any other members of FLNKS that had signed the Matignon Agreement for the purpose of drawing up a new general strategy for achieving independence in order to prevent the implementation of the 10-year plan of French colonialism.

62. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that many of the rapid changes linked to the forthcoming unification of Europe in 1992 were very positive. At the same time, the question arose whether the interests of the "third world" countries would suffer as a result of the shifting of attention and resources to Europe. He wondered how Mr. Uregei viewed that process.

63. Mr. UREGEI (Front uni de libération kanak) said that, in his opinion, in 1992 his country would be subjected to colonial exploitation not by one State but rather by 12. New investments would be made on the basis of the free movement of labour and capital and new structures impeding the accession of New Caledonia to independence would come about. The Kanaks were told that the basic principles of decolonization, which had brought freedom to the African colonies, did not apply to New Caledonia. France had done nothing to ensure the self-determination of the Kanak people throughout the long years of their struggle for independence. Furthermore, mass immigration into the Territory had brought about a situation in which the Kanaks had become a minority in their own country, after which a referendum was being proposed to them. Nothing was being done to improve the social situation of the Kanaks either.

64. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) asked whether the results of the elections in France in 1991 or 1992 would affect prospects for New Caledonia's accession to independence and self-determination.

65. Mr. UREGEI (Front uni de libération kanak) said that no one knew who would be elected in France in 1993 and what policy would be followed by the new Government. The 10-year Rocard plan had been enacted as legislation and, although it was impossible to predict whether it would be supported by a parliamentary majority in the future, the possibility that it might be repealed by a new parliament could not be excluded.

66. Mr. Uregei withdrew.

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

67. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should hear a petitioner on the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

68. Ms. BONEPARTH (United States of America), explaining her Government's position, said that the Committee was not the appropriate forum for discussing the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and pointed out, in particular, that in accordance with the Charter and established practice, all the functions relating to the Territory were carried out by the Security Council with the assistance of the Trusteeship Council. Accordingly, she objected to the Committee's discussion of the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the hearing of petitioners in that regard.

69. Mr. HARKIN (United Kingdom) said that he supported the view expressed by the representative of the United States and pointed out that the question of that Trust Territory was within the competence of the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council, not the General Assembly.

70. Mr. LACROIX (France) said that he supported the statements made by the previous speakers with regard to the consideration of the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

71. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Scheiner (National Mobilization for Survival) took a place at the petitioners' table.

72. Mr. SCHEINER (National Mobilization for Survival) said that his views were also shared by the War Resisters International and the International Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific Movement.

73. For the past 30 years, the United Nations, through its tireless and effective work, had achieved great success in helping 59 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories achieve independence. Nevertheless, the overall task had not yet been completed.

74. The answer to the question asked by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu and repeated by the Palauans as to why their region must be a site for testing nuclear devices, particularly at a time when the cold war had ended, was clear and ugly: the United States Government wanted to maintain the possibility of basing nuclear warships and planes in strategically situated Palau.

75. If the United States had removed the provision from the Compact of Free Association permitting the storage of nuclear warheads on the islands, the voters of Palau would have approved the Compact when it had been first presented.

76. After Palau had again rejected the Compact, the United States had arbitrarily assumed the right to intervene in Palauan affairs under the current Trusteeship Agreement. The Government of Palau was permitted to communicate with the United Nations and other Governments only with the approval of the United States State Department.

77. After Palauan officials, the Guam Legislature, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and the United States Congress had protested, the United States Government had retreated slightly from its position. Nevertheless, the threat of direct rule from Washington remained and the United States Government seemed prepared to maintain Trusteeship under tight control indefinitely. One excuse for the reassertion of control by the United States was that funds had been mismanaged in Palau. In that regard, he referred to a scandal involving an electric power plant that had resulted in an enormous debt.

78. He cited the example of Panama, where the United States, in spite of a treaty that it had signed on phasing out its military control in the Panama Canal Zone, had invaded that country and he pointed to a similar situation in Palau where the facade of Palauan self-rule had disappeared when the wishes of the United States military had not been followed. It was the responsibility of the United Nations to protect the people of Palau and Panama - just as in the case of the people of

(Mr. Scheiner)

Kuwait. He also hoped that the United Nations would defend Palau's sovereignty and help the Palauan people implement their right to true self-determination.

79. Mr. Scheiner withdrew.

REQUEST FOR HEARING

80. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee of the receipt of communication A/C.4/45/2/Add.6, containing a request for a hearing on the question of New Caledonia under agenda item 18. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communication should be circulated as a Committee document for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

81. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.